

City of Milton-Freewater  
City Council WORK SESSION Minutes

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met with the Unified Milton-Freewater School District Board for a special study session on August 27, 2007 in the Albee Room of the City Library at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Mayor Lewis Key, Councilors Kelley, Lyon, Irving, Chesnut, Humbert, and Woods. School Board members present were George Gillette, Nancy Kessler, Ken Sloan, Sharee LaRue-Wright, Duane Geyer, and Art Doherty. Absent was School Board Member Bob Humbert.

Staff members present were City Manager Delphine Palmer, Assistant City Manager Linda Hall, Public Works Superintendent Dave Bradshaw and School Superintendent Marilyn McBride.

Representing the press was Melanie Hall of Valley Herald.

Citizens present were Betty Alexander, Pat Thomson, Daryl Clifton, and others.

The purpose of the joint work session was to allow the Council and the School Board to discuss various issues in an informal setting.

Ken Sloan started the conversation by asking what the group thought should be done to bring about city growth and get school bonds passed.

A brief discussion ensued on various issues ranging from urban growth boundaries, annexations, schools, facilities and infrastructure.

City Manager Delphine Palmer and School Superintendent Marilyn McBride updated the boards on projects that the School and City had collaborated on recently including a faster internet provider for the City staff, curtailing problems at the skate park, and contracting for services to eradicate pigeons from school property where they are causing problems.

George Gillette also commented that he has always appreciated the collaboration efforts of the school and city with regard to the creation of, maintenance, improvements and scheduling of all parks and ball fields for the community.

He added he would like to include more members of civic groups to participate in this effort as well. He also stated that he would like these meetings to occur on a regular basis so the two boards could make sure they were continuing to work together.

Councilor Humbert stated he would like the City and School District to work together to establish a parks and recreation district to fund recreational facilities. He stated it is difficult for only the City to fund these facilities.

Councilor Chesnut commented that there are two major stumbling blocks to passage of a measure implementing such a district. He stated there are overwhelming "no" votes if you have a big benefiting project in mind, and then if you don't have a big project planned, you seem to get "no" votes out of apathy. He then suggested success at passing such an action by promising voters that no huge projects would be undertaken in the district for the first three years to promote voter confidence.

Councilor Woods stated this would create operating and maintenance funding for both the school and city thus paring down department budgets for both entities.

Ken Sloan commented that voter participation was still a concern.

Councilor Kelley stated due to the double majority rule, not participating in the election resulted in a no vote.

George Gillette stated this was a huge factor. He stated he believed the city and school should collaborate on future election issues.

Councilor Kelley stated the City is currently maxed out on parks maintenance.

A discussion then ensued on the recruitment of businesses and expansion of the tax base.

A discussion then ensued regarding the current Urban Growth Boundary, zoning laws and how the County and State Planning Departments come into play.

Duane Geyer commented that he would really like to see the two boards explore the implementation of a parks and recreation district.

Councilor Humbert commented that he had researched quite a few issues with this and had come up with an idea of implementing a "parcels tax" for the parks and recreation district, which would mirror the boundaries of the school district.

Discussion on the subject resumed.

It was the general consensus of both governing bodies to arrange for quarterly meetings between the two entities.

The Mayor then opened the floor to citizen comments.

Daryl Clifton, 6<sup>th</sup> and North Main St., stated the two boards needed to have a communications officer. He stated that meetings were not advertised and suggested a city newsletter be implemented to serve notice. He further commented that the Highway 11 Task Force should have been established 10 to 15 years ago.

Councilor Kelley responded that all city meetings were advertised in advance in all local newspapers.

Mr. Clifton stated he did not read the newspapers.

Councilor Lyon asked if Mr. Clifton did not read newspapers, how was the City supposed to advertise their meetings?

Mr. Clifton stated by newsletter. He further stated that the City needed a full time grant writer.

Councilor Humbert answered that the City did have a full time grant writer, but grant opportunities were becoming few and far between. He did say that Ms. Hall and Ms. Dutcher have been very successful this year in garnering grants for the public transportation programs. He commented that all department heads at the city write grants on occasion---for example the police and fire departments.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Clifton for his comments.

There being no further discussions or business, the session was adjourned with no action being taken at 9:10 p.m.

---

Lewis S. Key, Mayor